

Division of Wildlife Conservation
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Alaska Department of Fish and Game
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Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: October 21, 2019

CONTACT:

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MOOSE HUNTING SEASON CLOSURE UNIT 5A WEST OF THE DANGEROUS RIVER

(Juneau) – The Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the United States Forest Service announce an early closure to the moose hunting season in that portion of Game Management Unit 5(A) west of the Dangerous River, but not including Nunatak Bench. The hunt in this area is managed under joint state and federal registration permit RM061.

Biologists with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game set the 2019 harvest objective at 30 bull moose for the portion of the Yakutat Forelands west of the Dangerous River. As of Monday afternoon, October 21, 2019, 29 bulls have been harvested. Hunter effort could increase with the opening of the state season on federal lands and harvest could well exceed the harvest quota if the season is allowed to continue more than a day into the state moose season.

Due to poor survey conditions, the last time a moose survey was conducted for the Yakutat Forelands was 2015. The December 2015 survey found 16 bulls:100 cow moose which is below the Yakutat area management objective of 25 bulls:100 cows. Because the December 2015 survey took place at a time when bulls begin to shed antlers and some bulls may have been misclassified as cows, the bull:cow ratio for that survey is conservative. However, to ensure an adequate number of bulls are available to breed all cows, the growth of this population and future harvest opportunity, we believe it is important to not exceed the harvest objective of 30 bulls.

This Emergency Order (01-16-19) closes the state moose hunting season in this area on Tuesday, October 22, 2019 @ 11:59 pm. The United States Forest Service has also issued a news release closing the federal moose hunting season in this area, effective October 22, 2019 @ 11:59 pm.

Hunters are reminded that the remainder of Game Management Unit 5A east of the Dangerous River will remain open for moose hunting through the 15th of November or until the harvest of bull moose on the east-side Forelands reaches 30 bulls.

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Hunters with questions about moose hunting in Game Management Unit 5A are encouraged to contact Roy Churchwell at the Douglas Area Office of ADF&G @ 465-4266.

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